

- a. providing a pipettor tip having an affinity reagent present;
- b. separating and concentrating the target biomolecule directly from the biological fluid by flowing a volume of the biological fluid through the pipettor tip, thereby binding the target biomolecules to the affinity reagent;
- c. eluting the target biomolecules onto a mass spectrometer target; and
- d. performing mass spectrometric analysis on the target biomolecules in order to qualitatively determine the presence or absence of the target biomolecule in the biological fluid.—

--11. (AMENDED) The method according to claim 9 wherein the qualitative determination further determines a presence of genetic and posttranslational variants of the target biomolecule.—

--12. (AMENDED) The method according to claim 10 wherein the qualitative determination further determines a presence of genetic and posttranslational variants of the target biomolecule--.

REMARKS

In the Examiner's September 16, 2002 Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 9 and rejected claims 9-12. This Response amends claims 9 and 11-12. After entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 9-12 remain pending in the Application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.